

In response to "Mirpur Stadium in Pakistan"

This is in response to the letter sent to you by Shaheen Anam on 29th March 2011 regarding the lack of reciprocation by the Pakistani cricket captain Shahid Afridi to the adoring crowds of Dhaka that supported them in the quarter final match against the West Indies in the World Cup 2011 Quarter Finals.

I will not deny that the letter represents the thoughts of many people in Bangladesh. The history of our two countries is fraught with blood and pain. But I do have to point out; Ms. Anam does exactly what she says she isn't doing: mixing politics and sport. When it comes to sport, people will cling onto whatever they feel appeals to them.

It is strange a little reticence from Shahid Afridi ought to call for such national soul-searching as to why we need to support Pakistan in a game against the West Indies.

And to offer a small, refreshing and optimistic side-note to ameliorate this feeling of hurtfulness. Pakistanis were supporting Bangladesh in most of the World Cup 2011 games. I know this from anecdotes relayed to me by my Pakistani friends. In the end, none of this matters. It's just a game. People should enjoy it however they like, without having to be reminded of politics.

Iftekhhar
Amsterdam

Thank you very much from the core of my heart for bringing in focus the behavior of some people in the Mirpur Stadium during the match between Pakistan and the West Indies. I strongly feel that there are people even amongst the younger generation who do not know the atrocities of 1971. I am in unison with you (Ms.Anam) that some would have chanted 'Pakistan Zindabad slogan' even if the match would have been scheduled on 25th March. I simply cannot reconcile how soon we can forget our past. I congratulate you for your reaction.

To tell you frankly I did not watch that match because it was on March 23. Did not the people living here know that forty years back we hoisted a new flag of Bangladesh on the same day? I feel, everyone should be taught history irrespective of their age and education.

Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury
A freedom fighter

Saudi Minister's assurance

As reported in the daily "Arab News" recently, Saudi Minister of Labour Adel Fakhieh has assured support for Bangladeshi workers within the laws of the Kingdom that guarantee protection for foreign workers. The newspaper informed that Saudi Minister of Labour has accepted an invitation to visit Dhaka in the near future.

We hope that the Saudi government will remove any constraint that may be prevailing on the way to expedite recruitment of Bangladeshi professionals, skilled and unskilled workers at the earliest. We are indeed thankful and grateful to the Hon. King of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi government for the support and assistances the Kingdom has been providing to Bangladesh for the latter's welfare and development.

Meanwhile, I would urge our government to intensify its efforts to exploring new job opportunities in the Middle East plus other countries for our workers including those who returned from Libya. Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

If laws and rules bring despair...

The essence of democracy is to have laws, rules and procedures etc that bring happiness to the majority of people. Our rulers, however, think otherwise. While explaining the Yunus issue to our foreign friends, one senior minister resorted to falsity. Another, while embarking on her mission of mercy to bring solace to our brethren ejected out of Libya, said with a straight face that no matter how many people lose their joy and

Forget the idea of nuclear power plant



PHOTO: AFP

The letter of Mr. Wali-ur Rahman published in The Daily Star on March 21, 2011 is noteworthy. His suggestion to Bangladesh government to abandon the decision of setting up a nuclear power plant and the reasons put forward are true to the point. The three reasons are-- Bangladesh is in high risk of earthquakes, we are not as technologically developed as Japan, and Bangladesh is a small country, so in case of radiation, people will not be able to move

to safer places.

I want to add one more reason why the plan must be abandoned. After observing the condition of many existing important structures, I have got the feeling that for poor maintenance the nuclear power plant would become dilapidated with time, and the consequences would be serious.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

What is our Sonar Bangla?

Bangladesh celebrates her forty years of independence. During these forty years what did we achieve? We could not achieve economic freedom. Rather, we have become champion in corruption. Our father of the nation had dreamt of a Sonar Bangla. What is the govt. doing to make his dream come true?

M.M. Parvej
Dept. of Fisheries (Hons.)
Patuakhali Science and Technology University

In defence of Col Gaddafi

Libyan revolutionary leader Col Gaddafi is presently facing a highly difficult situation. The allied forces including USA are attacking Libya by violating the sovereignty of the country resulting in deaths of hundreds of innocent people. If USA and other countries were so worried about international peace and humanity in real sense, they would have launched joint army action against Israel which is continuously refusing to vacate the occupied Arab areas despite the resolution passed by the UN.

Today, Col Gaddafi and his country both are in great distress and some short-sighted people are demanding to change the name of Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. What a shame! Mohammad Khan Sial
Karachi, Sindh (Pakistan)

We stand by you, Japan

Our sincere condolences go to the people

and government of Japan. In particular to the bereaved families who lost their near and dear ones during the natural calamity of unprecedented magnitude. This is a very difficult time for the people of Japan. To add to the misery, nuclear plant blasts sent another wave of profound shock to the Japanese people. Some of the areas where earthquake and tsunami hit are known to me personally. Japanese are resilient, diligent and extremely positive-minded people who will overcome these appalling catastrophes. And Japan is a tested friend of ours and always stands by us through thick and thin. At this time of great disaster, we would like to assure our Japanese friends that our continuous prayers and heartfelt sympathies are with them. AFM Mohiuddin, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Give us the latest, please

I've been a regular subscriber of The Daily Star for about eight years. In your sports page, most of the news about major football leagues around the world is more than a day old. There are many football fans all over our country (especially in Dhaka and Chittagong) who are the subscribers of The Daily Star as well. Thus you may already have guessed that they like to have the latest news on football. Since everyone cannot stay up late at night and watch the games, they expect to find the results in your paper the next morning. Please advise the sports editor to have someone to update this specific part of the news earlier than they are doing now. I'm sure it would make your subscribers feel a little better. I hope you will consider my request and do the needful.

Wrath of the government

It has become clear why our Prime Minister and her government stood against Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank. After the rejection of Yunus' writ petition in the court against Bangladesh Bank's order to remove Yunus from his office, Attorney General Mahbub-e Alam made it clear that if anyone was supposed to get a Nobel Peace Prize in Bangladesh it should have been either Sheikh Hasina or Shantu Larma. The government though failed to give attention to the country's serious problems such as power crisis, gas crisis, water crisis, population explosion, traffic jam, price hike of daily commodities and many other issues; it was able to remove Prof Yunus from Grameen Bank not considering its long-term effect not only in the country but throughout the world.

What a ridiculous decision govt. has taken to let our country down! Shame on us, for we failed to protect Prof Yunus from the wrath of the government!

Md. Shahjahan Mia
Development Professional
Dhaka

Govt. and opposition should work together

This is the 40th year of our independence. We want to be more optimistic and confident that our country will go ahead towards economic development, peace, prosperity, and self-sufficiency. We want the commitment of change to turn into reality. Our last year's list of achievements is considerable.

The government has started the trial of war criminals, made a better national education policy. It has also progressed in agriculture sector, uprooting militancy, making friendly foreign relations, discovering genome sequencing of jute, decreasing poverty rate, increasing per capita income, achieving self-sufficiency in food, increasing export earning.

We are optimistic that Bangladesh will go ahead. Let us build a Sonar Bangla giving up politics of hartal, clashes and chaos.

We hope the government and the opposition will work shoulder to shoulder for our country's economic development and betterment of the people.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS)

Microcredit - a life saving idea



PHOTO: STAR

It is such a shame that the Bangladesh Bank is discrediting a man who has worked for decades to prove that the poorest people are credit worthy. The concept of providing tiny loans for very poor people was taken up by other countries around the world. It is seen as literally a life saving idea - people lift themselves out of malnourishment and inadequate housing and use the loans to create income generating small businesses. They can then send their children to school, save money, become healthier and the women especially can become role models for their daughters.

As a result of Yunus' ideas, the Australian government has over the past 15 years, provided increased support for microfinance programmes in many countries as part of the overseas aid budget.

Sue Packham
Edward Court Woolamai
Victoria, Australia

Build wider footbridges



PHOTO: STAR

With the number of accidents increasing in the country as well as within Dhaka city, will our City Corporation think of building wider footbridges considering the population and the number of pedestrians crossing these roads every day from morning till night in the following intersections:

Near LabAid hospital at Dhanmondi road # 4, Near Dhanmondi Playground at road # 8, near Panthapath at road number 32 and on all sides of Sonargaon Hotel. Every day millions of people cross these roads. The underpass near Sonargaon Hotel is useless as people don't want to walk an additional 5-10 minutes to cross the road.

I hope the authorities concerned will look into the matter without any delay. The footpaths in these areas need to be repaired also so that the pedestrians can walk on these footpaths without hitting dustbins and falling in potholes. Soheli Ahmed, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

President may lose power (March 31, 2011)

If the political parties kept faith in each other and took lessons from their past activities and its consequences, there would be no need of any caretaker government system just like it's not needed in most of the countries.

Ibrahim Zaman

Bangladeshis should come out from shells of AL and BNP. We all need to be united as one nation to save our beloved nation.

These two parties have divided us. We haven't gotten anything good

besides hatred among us. Both are playing dirty tricks. 40 years has gone, where are we today? They taught how to play blaming game that they have skillfully built in our culture.

Kamal

But president must have some power in case of emergency, for instance war, at the time of caretaker tenure. The alternative could be to have the power to recall the disbanded parliament if any such incident arises.

Rawshan Iajdani

The caretaker government system was introduced two decades ago to facilitate the hand over of power through a free and fair election. The role of president during the past caretaker government was not constructive. The current parliament should ensure appropriate changes to president's role in caretaker government system.

In addition, the following measures may be taken: limiting election expenditure and strictly monitoring it, making ACC stronger and independent, bolster the

NBR, JS boycott culture should be stopped, empowering the EC through electronic voting system and incorporating education on democracy, election and citizens right at school level.

Dr. Shaidul Kazi

The change does not mean anything good for the country. These partisan changes will be changed when BNP or anyone comes to power. AL is changing this out of its own whim and not in good spirit.

Chou